Client/Server Computing

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Client/Server Computing: Considerations before embracing the technology

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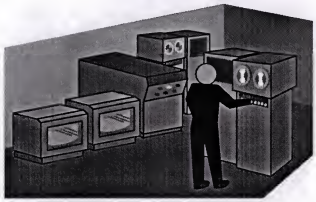

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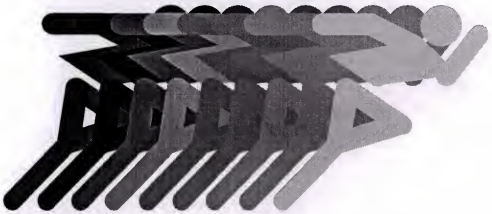
Client/Server Paradigm Shift

- Viewed as "new technology"
- Driven by business reengineering
- Used as corporate/enterprise change agent



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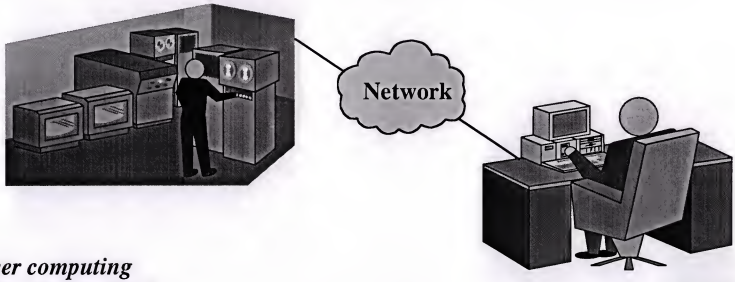
Three Tier Model

- Business logic moved to desktop
- Data moved to servers
- Network and middleware connects clients to servers



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What's Different...

- Systems integration is key
  - Proprietary solutions are out
- Development model has changed
- Prototyping & rapid application development utilized
- Systems are iteratively designed and approximated, not exhaustively researched and delivered

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What's Different...

- Usability emphasized
- Applications driven by business needs, not data needs
- Human engineering emphasized to accomplish job functions
- Users (not MIS) QA systems, changes are rapid and decisive

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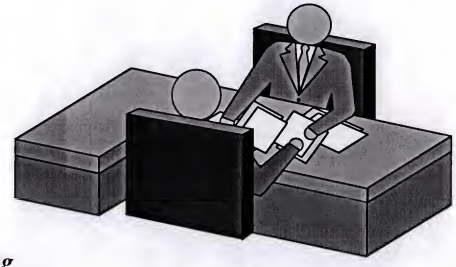
How do you Manage Contracted Client/Server Projects?

- **Enterprise/consultant relationship partnering is key to success**



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Key Success Factors...

- Experience - both business & technical
- Knowledge - technology instead of single solutions
  - Standards
  - Object Oriented Analysis/Design/Implementation
- Partnering
  - Knowledge transfer
  - Vendor relations
  - Legacy knowledge
- Training
- Expectations

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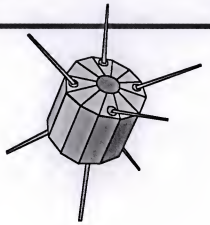
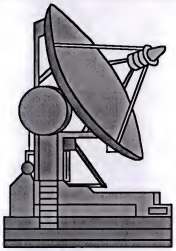
Network considerations



- Client networks
- Server network
- Remote connectivity
- Network maintainability



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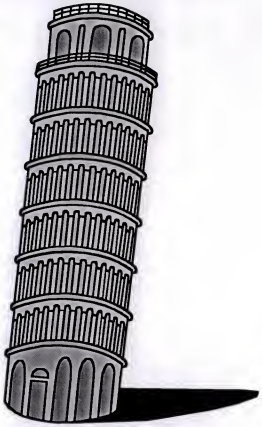
Legacy data considerations

- How to handle mainframe data
  - Directly couple to client
  - Stage through file server
  - Migrate to server
- Middleware issues
- Network issues



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Client/Server Milestones

- Driven by business plan
- Creation of technology strategy
- Definition of C/S applications for job functions
  - Non-modal workstation navigation
  - Database architecture
  - Network architecture
- A different delivery of applications
- Full business production

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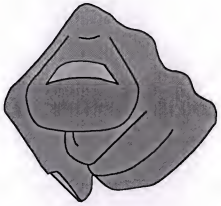
"Soft" Issues

- Enterprise/consultant chemistry
- Who drives organization change?
- Who decides scope?
- What are the acceptance criteria?
- Who breaks the ties?



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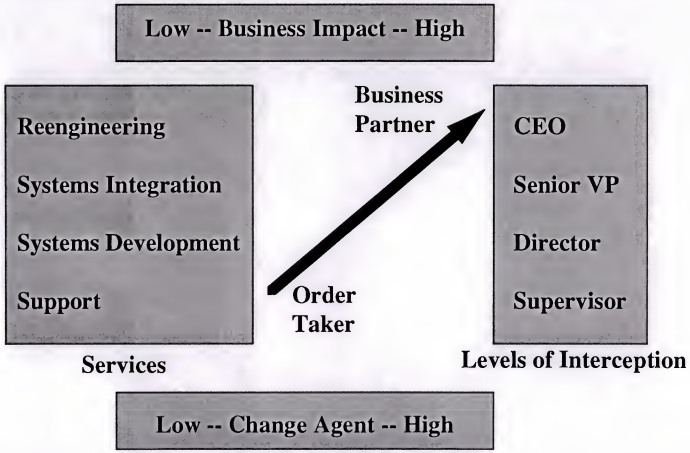
Changing Role of IT



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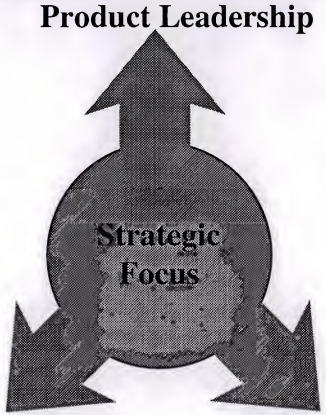
Business Focus



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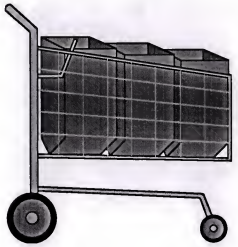
Strategies in Vendor Selection



- Determine your risk level
- Check references
  - Project focus - Industry focus
- Review past successes & failures
- Decide level of involvement
  - Body shop hiring
  - Project management
  - Business cycle design

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PAUL DERBY
PRINCIPAL
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PROFILE

CAPABILITIES

Paul Derby has worked with client/server technology since 1984. He joined CSC Partner's Client/server Practice Team in 1992 as a Principal. Mr. Derby's expertise includes open systems architecture, project management, business re-engineering and strategic planning.

BACKGROUND

Prior to joining CSC Partners, Mr. Derby was CIO of a publicly held multinational software company and Director of MIS for a major computer systems and services corporation. Both positions involved business reengineering, development of enterprise-wide infrastructure, and delivery of client/server based application systems. Mr. Derby taught computer science while on the faculty of the State University College, Geneseo, NY.

EDUCATION

Mr. Derby completed Bachelors and Doctoral degrees in experimental psychology and applied statistics at Oklahoma City University and Colorado State University. He did research in applied statistics at Stanford University as part of a postdoctoral program sponsored by the National Science Foundation.